

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, UR

SUBJ: JAPANESE PRESS COVERAGE OF TANAKA'S INVITATIONS TO US & USSR

SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
STORIES THAT PRESIDENT NIXON AND FIRST SECRETARY BREZHNEV
HAVE FORMALLY INVITED PRIMIN TANAKA TO VISIT US AND USSR.
END SUMMARY

1. MAJOR JAPANESE PAPERS FRONT- PAGED REPORTS OF TANAKA'S
INVITATIONS TO US & USSR, GIVING FULLER AND MORE PROMINENT
COVERAGE TO INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT NIXON. ALL PAPERS
CARRIED WASHINGTON DATELINE STORIES REPORTING PRESIDENT'S
MARCH 27 STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT HE HAD CONVEYED INVITATION
TO PRIMIN TANAKA WYN HE HAD MET FINMIN AICHI THAT DAY AND
PRESIDENT'S HOPE THAT VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER.
YOMIURI SHIMBUN CARRIED INSIDE PAGE REPORT THAT US HAD
SUGGESTED TANAKA VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 3. SAME
PAPERS CARRIED REPORTS OF SOVIET AMB TROYANOVSKY'S MARCH 28
CALL UPON PRIMIN TANAKA STATING THAT TROYANOVSKY
HAD DELIVERED BREZHNEV'S REPLY TO TANAKA'S MARCH 6 LETTER.
LETTER DELIVERED BY TROYANOVSKY CONVEYED BREZHNEV'S
PERSONAL INVITATION TO TANAKA. PRESS ALSO REPORTED CHIEF
CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIIDO'S MARCH 28 REMARKS THAT PRIMIN
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MAY MAKE CONSECUTIVE VISITS TO US AND USSR THIS YEAR.

2. JAPANESE PRESS HAS COMMENTED THAT US VISIT REFLECTS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN QTE CONSTANT DIALOGUE UNQTE ON WORLD AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WAS AGREED TO AT 1972 KUILIMA SUMMIT AND NEED TO TAKE STEPS TO RESOLVE TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. TANAKA' S DESIRE TO VISIT SOVIET UNION IS DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS EFFORT TO RESTORE BALANCE TO JAPAN' S RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND CHINA. SPEED WITH WHICH BREZHNEV REPLIED TO TANAKA' S LETTER IS INTERPRETED AS INDICATION OF SOVIET' S STRONG DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. COINCIDENCE OF TWO INVITATIONS PROVIDED CARTOONISTS WITH OPPORTUNITY TO PORTRAY JAPAN AS BEING WOODED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY WORLD' S TWO MAJOR POWERS.

3. ON RELATED SUBJECT PRESS REPORTS THAT AT LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 28, FONMIN OHIRA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISIT TO JAPAN BY PRESIDENT NIXON COULD BE ARRANGED. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT NIXON' S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARK THAT HE HAD NO FIRM PLANS CONCERNING VISIT TO JAPAN WAS SEEN AS INDICATION PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WOULD PROBABLY NOT OCCUR THIS YEAR.

4. SANKEI CARRIED REPORT THAT PRESIDENT HAD ASKED FINMIN AICHI ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EMPEROR' S VISIT TO US. SANKEI SAID THAT US AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ON TEN- DAY, FIVE CITY IMPERIAL VISIT THIS AUTUMN. AT MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE NIKAIDO SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT AICHI HAD NO RPT NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS IMPERIAL VISIT AND THEREFORE HAD NOT COMMENTED ON SUBJECT. NIKAIDO' S PHRASEOLOGY WAS INTERPRETED BY PRESS AS INDICATION THAT PRESIDENT HAD IN FACT INQUIRED ABOUT IMPERIAL VISIT.
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